

Light reading

City Light offers some of the lowest rates in the nation and the Northwest.

May/June 2011

From the superintendent



Seattle City Light is slowly making its way out of the recession. A sign of progress is the work we're doing this spring and summer to keep your lights on. Here's a brief look at some of our bigger projects.

Between Queen Anne and Fremont, crews are installing new power lines on 200-foot towers that are on either side of the Ship Canal at Warren Avenue. The work boosts reliability of our area substations. Partial closures of N. 34th Street (west of the Fremont Bridge) and Nickerson Street, as well as intermittent closures of the Burke-Gilman and Ship Canal trails will be required for public safety. On-site signs will offer dates for closures.

The Mercer Street traffic revision project will change the road from one-way to two-way. We're taking the opportunity to move some overhead lines underground into ducts and vaults that are being built, increasing reliability.

Work on our aging underground power cables continues in many neighborhoods. We've injected some cables with a silicon gel that extends cable life 10 to 20 years. If cables are too deteriorated, they'll be replaced.

In spite of the recession, we've made significant progress on critical maintenance of infrastructure. Learn more on our website www.seattle.gov/light in the featured article "2010 Accomplishments."

We know that this work may cause traffic disruptions or perhaps a

planned outage but it also provides needed improvements to our electrical infrastructure.

**Superintendent
Jorge Carrasco**



Conservation news

Sign up for solar

City Light launches its first Community Solar program in the next few months as solar panels go up on three new picnic shelters at Jefferson Park. For \$600, you can buy a portion of the solar energy generated at the park and get partial credit on your electric bills for participating in this nine-year project. For details, visit www.seattle.gov/light/commsolar.

Solar works in Seattle

For a sustainable energy future, put the sun to work for you. There are 350 City Light customers who have installed solar panels on their homes to produce some of their own electricity. Customers who generate their own renewable energy are eligible to take part in the Washington State Production Incentive Program, administered by City Light. Learn more online: www.seattle.gov/light/solar.

Recycle the fridge

If you have an old, secondary working refrigerator or freezer that's wasting energy, we'll help you recycle it with a free pick-up and \$30 rebate. Details at www.seattle.gov/refrigerator or call **206.233.COLD (2653)**.

Celebrate sunshine

The 8th annual SolarFest is on Saturday, July 16, 2011 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Shoreline Community College. Meet 100 exhibitors from a variety of solar companies and sustainable living organizations. Attend presentations, sample food, and visit the City Light booth. Visit www.seattle.gov/light/solar.

Anne's energy-wise tip



"If you use an electric dryer, the average cost to dry clothes is \$100 per year. Dry your clothes outside for free."

- Anne Ducey, your City Light conservation partner

New appliance rebates

City Light offers rebates ranging from \$50 to \$1,200 on a new efficient refrigerator, clothes washer, heat pump water heater or ductless heat pump. For a list of qualifying products, rebate amounts and forms, visit www.seattle.gov/appliances or call **206.684.3800**.

Questions?

Call City Light's Energy Advisors at **206.684.3800** for information about our programs, events, and ways to save energy.



Moove to green energy

See the Green Up flyer with your bill and support local producers of green energy.

Green Up!

Info and events

Read the latest Light Reading online: www.seattle.gov/light/publications/lightreading

Your advice, please

Starting in May, we'll hold public forums to talk about our long-range plans. Mayor McGinn, Seattle City Council and City Light want public feedback about a six-year plan to guide decisions on rates, budgets, programs and services at the utility. In addition, customers can take a quick online survey. Learn more about the strategic plan process, take the survey, or find an upcoming forum at www.seattle.gov/light/strategic-plan.



E-car in your future?

Most electric vehicles can be charged with an extension cord but it can take up to 24 hours. For faster charging, many people invest in a charging station, which uses a 240-volt circuit, requires installation by an electrician, and maybe an electric service up-grade. Learn more at www.seattle.gov/light/electricvehicles.

From the field

"Teach kids never to climb trees or fly kites near power lines, and make sure treehouses for kids are well away from power lines. Go to www.seattle.gov/light/printdocs/powerlinesafety.PDF for more info."
— Ed Hill, City Light crew chief



What's online

Find useful information on City Light's website including a power outage map, streetlight repair/report page, Power Lines blog, Twitter, and Facebook. It's all on www.seattle.gov/light.



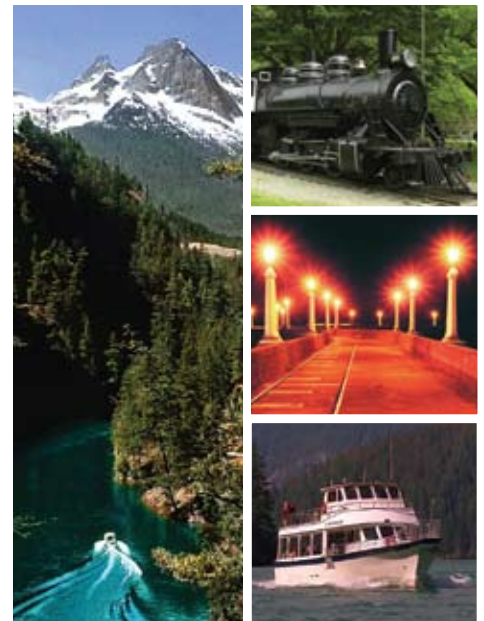
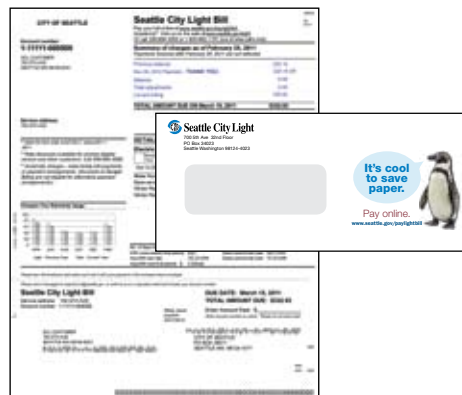
LEDs save energy & money

Last year, we began replacing conventional streetlights on residential streets with new energy-saving LEDs (light-emitting diodes). We expected LEDs would reduce energy use by 40 percent but they performed even better, saving more than 48 percent. This spring and summer, we'll install 10,000 LED streetlights from N. 65th Street to the northern border of our service territory.



New & improved. Really.

You have a re-designed bill that we hope is easier to read and more informative. Let us know what you think at www.seattle.gov/light/AskCityLight.



Skagit Tours

Budget cuts cancelled City Light's popular Skagit Tours in 2010, but they're back, better than ever. Get details on boat tours, new hiking tours, and special fall events at www.seattle.gov/light/tours/skagit.



Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light: The first carbon-neutral utility in the nation.

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Questions, comments or suggestions?
E-mail respond.scl@seattle.gov or
call **206.684.3000**.

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This newsletter is available in alternate formats upon request. Versions in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Somali, Tagalog and Korean available online or call **206.684.3000**.



In your neighborhood: City Light @ work

- Pioneer Square: Preparation for re-routing power lines by building ducts and vaults in southbound lane of First Ave. S. (in May, crews work between S. Washington St. & S. Main St.);
- Arboretum along Lake Washington Boulevard: New streetlight poles with LED lights are being installed;

Visit our construction projects Web page and click on the  construction sign for details: www.seattle.gov/light/construction.



DAIRY BIOGAS?

One of the local renewable energy generation projects supported by Seattle City Light Green Up customers.

Moo

Cows produce more than milk. They also produce methane, one of the top five greenhouse gases that contributes to climate change. Dairy biogas projects capture and turn methane into energy that heats homes rather than the earth.

Why Green Up?

For as little as \$3 a month, you can contribute to renewable energy generation projects in the Northwest such as geothermal, small hydro, and dairy biogas through Seattle City Light's Green Up program. Your participation delivers more clean electricity to the power grid, supports green jobs and promotes a healthier environment.

To learn more or to sign up online, visit
www.seattle.gov/greenup



Seattle City Light

Green Up!

sign up online
www.seattle.gov/greenup

YES, I SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT!

- ☐ \$3.00 per month buys 200 kWh ☐ \$6.00 per month buys 400 kWh ☐ \$12.00 per month buys 800 kWh
☐ I already participate, but want to add \$ _____ each month


name		phone number	
service address		city	state zip
mailing address (if different from above)		city	state zip
account number		email address (for program communications and updates)	

signature: I agree to pay the monthly charges selected above for at least one year.

Please enclose with your payment or mail to: Green Up, Seattle City Light, PO Box 34023, Seattle WA 98124-4023.

Want to Green Up your business or event? Questions? Call (206) 684-3800 or visit www.seattle.gov/greenup

Since 2005 Seattle City Light has achieved net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through our conservation, renewable resources and renewable energy credits.

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